Ghost Trackers Newsletter

The Official Paranormal Publication of the Ghost Research Society



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The Ghost Trackers Newsletter is the official paranormal publication of the Ghost Research Society. The GRS was founded in 1978 by Martin V. Riccardo and this publication soon followed in September of 1982. It is published and edited by Dale D. Kaczmarek, President and is put out in February, June and October.

The Ghost Research Society is a membership organization devoted to collecting, analyzing and researching all forms of the paranormal with an emphasis on ghosts, hauntings, poltergeists and life after death. Different memberships are available for those wishing to become more actively involved. We are also looking for officers, State Coordinators, Field Investigators and Area Research Directors for various states and countries.

Regular memberships are \$12.00 per year and include three issues of the Ghost Trackers Newsletter, GRS button, membership card, discounts to GRS sponsored events and tours, FREE photo analysis service and discounts on new and used books with FREE finder service available. Send wants! Sustaining Memberships are \$17.00 and include the above and the opportunity of helping with ghost research and attending field excursions (Midwest members only and subject to interview) at least twice a year. Contributing Memberships are \$22.00 and besides the above receive a free newspaper clipping service for your particular state (or country) sent on an irregular basis with your subscription. Multi-year, Patron and Lifetime Memberships are also available. If interested in those, please request further information.

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The GRS is always on the lookout for photographs, newspaper clippings, articles, personal encounters or simply interesting anecdotes for publication. You will always receive full credit for anything published and that issue free of charge. All articles and stories become the property of the GRS and cannot be reprinted without written permission from the editor and author of the article. Those wishing to have articles, photographs, etc. returned must include a SASE with proper postage. All articles published are copyrighted!

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Send all inquiries and subscriptions to: Ghost Research Society, c/o Dale D. Kaczmarek, PO Box 205, Oak Lawn, IL. 60454-0205 or call (708)425-5163. Make all checks and money orders payable to Dale Kaczmarek.



Editors page:

I would like to begin by again thanking all those who donated items to the Ghost Research Society. Thanks to: Cathy Bevona, Tom Perrott, Jeanne Youngson, Wanda Bloomfield and Donald Kurtz for the articles and newspaper clippings; Tom Perrott for the audio tape lecture of Hilary Evans from the SPR meeting; Jeanne Youngson for the video tape of the history of Hull House; Thomas Cartwright and Sara Fieberg for the strange ghost photographs; Andy Jarett for the computer software; and Jim McCabe for the two books on regional ghost stories written by Cahill.

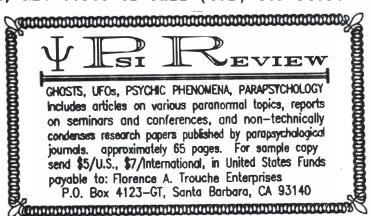
I'm pleased to have so many members who are constantly donating and contributing items for the GRS archives. I truly appreciate all the donations and keep them coming!

I would like to dedicate this newsletter to a member, recently deceased, who was a good friend and faithful member of the GRS for many years. Stephan Horvath from Columbus, Ohio recently died. My condolences go out to his wife and family. I first met Mr. Horvath when he came all the way from Ohio to one of the many Midwest Ghost Expositions held at the Oak Park Arms Hotel. He was a constant contributor and was always corresponding with me on a regular basis. He was helpful with driving Bob Joseph (another GRS member) from New York around while he was also in town for the convention and a ghost tour.

My fondest memory will always be the time I went to Ohio on vacation as part of a research trip. I met Stephan in Columbus and he helped direct me around the city including a stop at an Indian burial mound and the haunted Buxton Inn in Granville, Ohio. He generously treated me to a steak dinner there. I'll never forget the fun we had that short day! He will be sorely missed!!

Since the last newsletter we have added 12 new members and have received renewals from 17 members. Welcome aboard!

The newsletter of the quarter is a new publication just getting it's feet wet in the publishing business. PSI Spirit is the voice of the Parapsychological Studies Institute and is put together by Tom Keith, editor with the help of many including Dale Bacon from Exploring Unexplained Mysteries. Subscriptions are \$25 for individuals and \$40 for family memberships. Write to: PSI, Box 30036, Lincoln, NE. 68503 or call (402) 489-3403.



Ghost Research Society

I would like to congratulate both Martin V. Riccardo (founder of the GRS) and Rosemary Ellen Guiley (MD. State Coordinator for the GRS) on their timely and well written articles which recently came out in the February 1993 issue of Fate Magazine. Rosemary Ellen Guiley is also a Contributing Editor for the same publication.

Randolph Liebeck is now officially the New Jersey State Coordinator and also recently appeared in Fate magazine and on the Sally Jessie Rafael show. The show concerned a family that claimed to be molested by a ghost in various ways. Also onboard was Peter James a psychic and two skeptics who were debunking the ghosts and psychic phenomena in general. Mr. Liebeck was called upon while he was sitting in the audience and was asked if he believed in ghosts. His answer was interesting and right to the point. While never actually perceived a ghost, he urged people not to polarize themselves to one extreme or another but to try to keep an open mind about the subject at all times.

If you are interested in becoming a State Coordinator, Area Research Director or Field Investigator in your respective state, write for further details and job descriptions. There are many openings available including: Secretary and Sergeant-At-Arms in Illinois. Inquire about openings in your area.

Randolph Liebeck and Darin Scott are the newest Contributing Members of the GRS.

Effect immediately, Howard Heim has officially resigned as Research Director of the GRS. Through both verbal and written conversations with Mr. Heim, he thought it best to simply resign from the organization and go off on his own. There were many determining factors including a conflict of interest which was a major stumbling block between Mr. Heim and the GRS.

Fran and Lisa Pizano are the newest Field Investigators for the GRS in Illinois. They along with Tom Baker recently investigated a haunted house in Oak Forest which I'll talk more about in the next newsletter as further research is conducted.

The next bi-monthly meeting at the Oak Lawn Public Library is tentatively set for July 17, 1993. I won't know for sure until after the first week of June as I cannot put in my request until then. Other meeting dates including Field Excursions will be mentioned at that meeting.



Ghosts On Wheels

By

Tom Perrott

Ghosts on Wheels are not to be confused with 'cyclic ghosts', sad wraiths who are said to return to this earth to nostalgically commemorate the anniversaries of their own demises.

On historic sites such as the Tower of London and Windsor Castle, these forlorn spirits have often been reported as having disturbed sentries whilst on guard, often in the small hours of the morning with the unexpectedness of their materializations and the equally swift way in which they have disappeared, merging their shadowy shapes into the cloudy vapors thrown up by the nearby River Thames.

The Ghosts on Wheels referred to in this article are alleged spirit manifestations of various types of vehicles in which the 'revenant' or 'returning spirit' has transported him or herself from place to place often in appearances that have spanned the passing of many centuries.

The Phantom Coach in which the souls of dying sinners are said to have been fetched from their death chambers and driven away to Hell, would seem to be a relic of the Wild Hunt, in which Odin and his huntsmen performed a similar task. After the introduction of Christianity into the country, Odin was demoted to the rank of devil and at a later stage such Folk Heroes as Sir Francis Drake, the Elizabethan buccaneer from Devon, or Wild Edric, a Shropshire resistance fighter at the time of the Norman Conquest, were all said to have executed their macabre duties whilst being driven recklessly by a 'headless' or was it 'heedless' coachman, in a phantom coach pulled by headless horses.

There are many examples of phantom coaches in the United Kingdom, but two stories of their appearances can be found at Blickling Hall in Norfolk, a girlhood home of the tragic Anne Boleyn and at Okehampton in Devon. At Blickling on each anniversary of her death (19th May 1536) it is said that Anne has been seen sitting with her head reposing in her lap, in a coach drawn by a headless driver with headless horses. The ghost of a 17th century coach has been seen from time to time in the area of Okehampton Castle, travelling across the wild stretches of Dartmoor from the ancient town of Tavistock to Okehampton. The coach is said to have been constructed from the bones of the four murdered husbands killed by the notorious Lady Howard. She is said to sit as a shrouded specter within the coach, and a skeleton hound runs in front of it.

The famous Colonel T.E. Lawrence or Lawrence of Arabia as he was more commonly known, resigned his commission after World War I,

as he believed that the policy of the Allies had betrayed the gallant Arabs who had so valiantly fought with him against the Turks. In 1923 he enlisted as a simple Trooper in the Tank Corps and shortly after secured an isolated cottage called Clouds Hill, where he did much of his writing and entertained many literary luminaries of the time. In 1935 on a May morning, while riding his powerful Brough Superior motorcycle, he met with an accident sustaining injuries which proved fatal. On several occasions since, people in the area claim to have heard the sounds of a high-powered motorcycle speeding over the rough Dorset heath towards Clouds Hill.

During the 1930's a new spectral phenomenon appeared in the Kensington area of London. It was always encountered in the middle of the night, travelling at a very high speed and at a certain corner in the area many accidents were caused by this ghostly juggernaut. After one fatal accident in 1936 during which the driver has swerved and hit a wall, an eye-witness at the Inquest said that he had seen the bus hurtling toward the car seconds before it had hit the wall and swerved off the road. The Coroner expressed cynicism but many people wrote in to say that they had seen the bus, including a local transport official who had seen the bus draw up at the depot one morning and then disappear.

The mystery was never solved but the bus was not seen after the sharp corner had been removed. Could it have been that the vision was projected on to the spot to dramatize danger, or was it in the minds of the drivers themselves, which would not explain the sightings of the witnesses or the transport official.

The presence of the bus acknowledged after the death of a young motorist in 1984.

Here then end the accounts of some puzzlingly mysterious phantom vehicles. One has, as it is necessary in so many stories of this type, to ask oneself whether the vehicles ever existed, or were they simply fragments of fertile imaginations, boosted by accounts of local legends until they gained reality in the eyes of their beholders. Were the feelings of the beholders filled with this information, influencing them to equate natural happenings with supernatural phenomena. We will never know, because as is always evident in reports of these alleged inexplicable happenings, it is simply a question of the word of the percipient or percipients against those of the investigator and in a world of ever increasing change, one is led to ask oneself after all, "What is Truth!"

Submitted by: Tom Perrott, 93 The Avenue, Muswell Hill, London N10 2QG, United Kingdom.

A Boy Named Betty: Chost Photo Source

By

Maurice Schwalm

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It is difficult enough to generalize about ghost photographs taken in so-called haunted houses, but photos with the same overt characteristics that are <u>not</u> taken in haunted houses almost defy definition and understanding. Schwalm received one of these rare photos in March of 1992 from the person who had inadvertently taken it, a Ms. TR. Specifically, he was sent two photographs as the apparitional shot could not be understood without seeing the previous shot on the roll. Shot #1 simply shows a small, white dog standing next to a chainlink fence and staring intently at something that cannot be seen next to a flower protecting wire to the viewers left and about a yard away from the dog. Shot #2, shows the dog in front of the area where he had been looking and moving away from it in what appears to be a satisfied manner.

Behind the dog, is a full-sized apparition of what would seem to be a male form traced in smoke. The left arm of the form reaches down towards the dog. The form would be short for an adult male, perhaps five feet tall, but it has distinctly broad shoulders and a muscular build—and it seems to be wearing a skirt. Several parties examined the photograph and agreed that these were the salient points in describing the form. It could also be called a pipestem figure. Psychics would say it was an ectoplasmic form.

Ms. TR was then interviewed. Schwalm asked, "I notice your photos bear a date stamp of 5-15-91, do you do photographic work that demands documentation?" "Not at all. Those pix were taken with a camera my mother gave me. It did have some nice features, but I only used it for family occasions." "Well, I don't seem to see any family activity in progress here." "I had taken pictures of my sister and I was just shooting off the rest of the roll by taking pictures of my dog at dusk in my own backyard in Overland Park, Kansas." "Was the dog reacting to something going on next door at the time?" "No, but he did seem happy and was barking a lot as he does when there are children around or adults he knows." "And you saw nothing at the time and no special feeling about taking the pictures?" "None at all, but funny things do happen around my house even though I know the history of the house all the way back and it is definitely not what you call a haunted house. In July of 1990, my sister was staying with me. Every day for two weeks the doorbell rang at 7:15 a.m. for no reason. Last year, the

TV started popping on in the middle of the night. Then the alarm clock started ringing at 2:30 a.m." "Gee, I am sure glad you don't live in a haunted house!" "Was anything special going on in your life in May of 1991 when the pix were taken?" "No, but you need to talk to my cousin, Ms. LW. She had 'things' goings on about then. Maybe it all fits together."

Schwalm then talked to Ms. LW and asked her, "What 'things' have been going on at your house and could they relate to Ms. TR's house?" "Ever since my brother, BT died, things have gone on here, especially in his room. His rolodex turns on its own and his stereo turns on to play the music he liked." "Maybe we had better be talking about Mr. BT. When did he die and of what?" "He died of AIDS in June of 1990. He was 26 at the time of his death. died right here at home. They couldn't do anything for him at the hospital. He had a small art shop, but he was best known as a male stripper. He worked parties and even gay clubs, sometimes. I feel his presence frequently and TR does too." "Was he into psychic development or did he learn a meditation technique to combat his "He had friends who read Tarot cards and he had a lot of crystals in his room. I don't know if he gave readings with them but he did look into them a lot. Sometimes he put salt around them to protect them. I don't know what that means. You should have seen him in drag--you know, in women's clothing. He was really cute! But I used to tell him that there was something <u>missing</u> whatever he did." "In a manner of speaking, I have seen him in drag. You know there is a skirt around the male form in the photos I called you about. It is all smoke, but that is what it looks How tall was he?" "He was about 5'4". I have suspected that it was a photo he created all along. He was an artist in many He took only art courses at the junior college. He liked cameras. And he liked dogs a lot. He would have talked to TR's dog if he could. She kind of knows that." "I am sure she must." Schwalm then felt he had identified the "ghost photographer" involved. That left the question of how he could opportunistically create an uncommonly exact photo when none was anticipated.

A search was then made for background factors that might create an optimum moment for communications of a physical nature on 5-16-91. An Ephemeris indicated no significant sun-moon alignment for that date. Magnetic observatory data was checked as well. The A value for mid-latitudes was 8 which is not a settled condition. This would not be a factor. Schwalm then went into an involuntary meditation in which he was talking to a young man standing next to a chainlink fence. "Are you the photographer?", Schwalm asked. "Yes, but I'm not a professional. At least not at photography. My friends call me, Betty." "Why didn't you make a fully formed picture of yourself while you were at it?" "Well, I'm really not looking my best lately." "Is Betty your legal name?" "There never was anything legal about me. I'll tell you what you really want to know. TR wasn't paying any attention when she took those pictures. She wasn't composing her images. She was just shooting pictures. This left my artistic sense free to compose a picture for her. It is just like with Poltergeists. Nothing moves while you look at

it. You cannot make pictures while another mind is looking. OK?" Submitted by: Maurice Schwalm, PO Box 3522, Kansas City, KS. 66103-0522.

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A MUSEUM OF UFOs has been a dream of UFOlogists for years -- now it is becoming a reality! The National UFO Museum is a project to educate the general public to the fact that UFOs are a real phenomena that needs to be investigated and understood, perhaps more so now than ever before. NUFOM will be an archive and a repository of UFO data, artifacts, memorabilia, and much, much more. In our exhibit room we plan to show each of the several major theories of what UFOs are, and to delve in depth into such "hot" stories as flying saucer crash sites, government cover-ups and the alleged underground alien bases. We will also explore to connections of UFOs to the New Age in such areas as pyramids and crystals. But exhibits will be but a small part of the museum's "mission". It will be a bookstore and gift shop, whose mail order catalog is now available. It will do its own original research, both archival and hard science, and publish its own books. It currently publishes a 68 page quarterly journal of UFOlogy, Notes from the Hangar. It will be a clearing house of UFO data, a speakers pool and so much more!

As a person interested in the subject of UFOs, you have an important part to play in helping the National UFO Museum bring its vital message to the world. That begins with knowing more about the museum and why it is so important to get this message to the public now. To be placed on NUFOM's mailing list, send \$2.00 (to cover the cost of postage and handling) to: National UFO Museum, P. O. Box 20593, Sun Valley, NV 89433.

Summerland Ghosts

By

Richard Senate

Summerland is a community designed by ghosts! South of Santa Barbara lies the picturesque seaside community called Summerland. Today it is best known as an area inhabited by artists and creative people or as the local nude beach in the Santa Barbara area. few have studied its unique history or realize its links to spiritualism. The town was founded in 1883 by Mr. H.L. Williams as a place where spiritualists could practice their unique brand of religion, unhampered by undo skepticism. Spiritualism holds that the dead do not die and that, with the help of gifted individuals called 'mediums', they can, and do, return to communicate with the living. Fascinated with the new religion, Mr. Williams planned his new community with spiritualism in mind. The streets were given Lillie Avenue, the main names that related to the new faith. street today of the small town, is a popular spiritualist symbol, the unfolding petals of the lily reflecting the spiritual unfolding of the soul. The very name of the community is that of the lowest of the seven spheres (or heavens) of classical spiritualism.

Some of the old timers openly state that every other old house in Summerland is haunted! Some whisper that when the houses were built by spiritualist carpenters they incorporated occult symbols These occult elements make them into the rafters and walls. accessible to spirits and ghosts. Long ago the old timers once called the community "Spookville". The early spiritualists first erected a large building to use as a church. This was called Liberty Hall by the members, outsiders nicknamed it "Spook Hall". Here the devoted held their elaborate seances, inviting well-known mediums and lecturers to hold services. It was planned that a retirement home for old mediums would be built and a large library constructed to meet the needs of a very literate, and well-educated The idealistic community succumbed to the hands of population. greed, when oil was accidently discovered by a resident trying to dig a water well. The discovery of "Black Gold" forever altered the history and face of Summerland. The spiritualist dominance declined as oilmen and capitalist moved in to harvest the new-found wealth. But a small group did hold out until the old spiritualist church was at last demolished to make way for the freeway. But ghosts are not subject to earthly laws and sightings of ghosts are a common occurrence in the beachside community.

The Big Yellow House Restaurant in Summerland has been the best known 'haunted house' in the town for a number of years. The ghost nicknamed Hecter, has been written of in articles and books. He still has many a trick or two left to surprise young waitresses

and the occasional sensitive visitor. Some believe Hecter is a 'dirty old man' ghost because he focuses his attentions on attractive young ladies. Some have even accused him of an occasional pinch on the bottom, certainly an earthy way for a spirit to behave! The ghost is so popular that the story of Hecter is printed right on the menu. The Big Yellow House is old and there is some evidence that it was once used to hold seances long ago. Perhaps the playful Hecter is simply a leftover spirit from one of those lively gatherings of a century past.

The Tidepool Reflections shop on Lillie Avenue sells seashells and Tee-shirts to the passing tourists. Few realize that the old house, that is the shop, was once haunted. The owner and manager, Ms. Bettie Migneron, tells of misty figures seen when they first moved into the building. They also relate how objects moved about on their own. They were plagued by the specter until a patron, who was a spiritualist, offered to "give the house a blessing". Since that day the ghosts of the shell shop have been quiet.

KTMS Radio personality Tom Carrol is well known for his quick wit and ability to "think on his feet", but he hadn't reckoned with ghosts before he moved into an older home on Lillie Avenue in Summerland.

He recounts how a package of cigarettes vanished from his house after he spoke of quitting smoking. Another time, his favorite pair of brown shoes vanished, only to reappear three days later; freshly polished, with shoe-trees in them, in the center of the closet where he had looked a dozen times or more. He has heard a number of odd sounds in the old Summerland house and believe they might just be the spirit of a woman, perhaps a former resident, who, as a believer in the doctrine of spiritualism, has not passed away but continues to watch after the old home. These are but a few of the many stories of hauntings that can be found in the small community built for ghosts.

Submitted by: Richard Senate, 422 Staunton St., Camarillo, CA. 93010.



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The Quest For the 'Mary Celeste'

By

Rev. Speaker Gerald A. Polley

What I am going to relate to you is not really a ghost story, but it most certainly is a mystery, and with what I have found in

my research on the matter it is even more of a mystery.

Those who have any knowledge of the sea know the story of the Mary Celeste, the ship found abandoned off Portugal December 4, 1872. She was fully rigged. Food from her crew's last meal still sat on her table. Her cargo was intact. There was no sign of violence, yet every living soul aboard her was gone. There were not even any rats in her bilges!

For those of you who do no know me, I will explain that I am an internationally known psychic. With my wife I publish a little magazine every other month which features an interview with some famous Spirit of the past. Well, liking to solve a good mystery, I decided to do an interview with the Captain of The Mary Celeste, and find out exactly what happened to him and his crew. So I sent out my agents in The Spirit Realm to find him.

A short time later one of them returned to inform me that the Captain was nowhere to be found in The Spirit Realm. Now, thinking that he may have been an extremely evil individual and succumbed to The Second Death, I told my agent to find the first officer, then, or anyone else who had been on board, that could shed some light on the mystery.

My agent departed, and several days later returned with shocking news. Not one person who had been on The Mary Celeste could be located in The Spirit Realm! Not one soul from the vessel existed! Now, it is simply impossible that all these people could've suffered The Second Death. Some of their Spirits still have to exist somewhere, and the only way that they could be hidden from my agents is if they have been removed, in their physical form, from Earth's life-sustaining field.

Now, having some extra-terrestrial contacts, I went to the next logical source. They have a pretty good record of humans who have been removed from Earth over the ages, but to my utter dismay, even THEIR records were blank on this issue! As far as they know, none of their peoples abducted the crew and passengers of the Mary Celeste. So, instead of solving the mystery, I have deepened it far beyond even my understanding.

There are some mysteries beyond solving, no matter how good your sources of information. There are some questions that simply never can be answered, and what happened on the Mary Celeste seems to be one of those questions to which time and space will never give an answer.

Alleged Haunting In Sauchie Central Scotland

By

Malcolm Robinson

INTRODUCTION

On the 8th of February 1987, Malcolm Robinson, along with my colleague Ron Halliday, begun our research into claims that three houses joined together in the town of Sauchie in Clackmannanshire Central Scotland, were haunted. Early research showed that apparently the three houses built in 1937, were for the past six months, subject to strange footsteps, noises, bangs, smells, and all the usual phenomenon associated with hauntings. Many of the noises were reported to come from the loft area. Interviews were conducted with the witnesses on audio and video tape in which 44-year-old Mrs. Carol Harrison discussed with Malcolm Robinson that when she first moved into the home she felt that there was something not quite right, she just couldn't put her finger on it though.

Her first experience was that of standing on a certain stair in the home in which she experienced strange sensations, dizziness being the chief one. Carol's 18-year-old daughter Linda, had to sleep with her light on owing to constant bad dreams. Next door neighbor, Mrs. Eleanor Power, also related more of the same events which occurred in her home, with again, strange noises coming from the loft being the most prevalent.

SPI (Strange Phenomena Investigations) consulted Tony Cornell Cambridge University, Professor Archie Roy of University, asking them if they could offer some form of assistance, unfortunately, they were both too tied up in other research work to oblige. SPI also consulted other researchers again with no luck in regards to assistance. It looked like we were on our own, and so failing the assistance of others, SPI began one of their most promising cases. Another point we quickly uncovered, was that of Mrs. Power's eleven-year-old son David, he claimed that he was being visited in bed at night by a strange man and woman, the woman carrying a small baby which was solid in appearance, "but both the man and lady were not"? This case began to look more and more interesting as both Ron and I sifted further. Could these things really be happening? Or could it just be a ruse in order to obtain better housing (sometimes a fact in other such cases). This was the problems faced by SPI, and it was up to us to ascertain for sure, where fact and fallacy lay, and as the

Investigation progressed, we found ourselves catapulted most certainly in the direction of the strange and mysterious.

THE EVENTS AS DESCRIBED TO SPI.

First let us take the reader step by step through the SPI investigation of this puzzling case. As mentioned before, there were the footsteps, (which couldn't be accounted for), the banging noises coming from the loft whilst no one was up there, there was a "swishing" sound heard by Carol above the kitchen table, again nothing was to be seen, there was the strange feelings experienced by Carol on a certain stair leading up to the bedrooms, of which upon once stepping off, she felt OK. Most incidents seemed to occur when Carol's daughter Michelle was in the home. Carol's home was situated in the middle of the block of houses. Next door Eleanor Power's television set would switch itself on and off and the color and sound buttons would press on and off of their own accord, which was unnerving to say the least as Eleanor explained Eleanor also saw a reflection of a face which appeared briefly in the glass door of a stacking stereo unit, she insisted that this reflection was not that of those in the room at the time, indeed, there was only herself and son in the room. She did not recognize this face.

Michelle Harrison related to SPI that her boyfriend, who was paying a visit to the home, claims that he heard Michelle calling him to come upstairs, upon entering Michelle's bedroom he found that she wasn't there, (he had only just come into the house), he soon found her lying sleeping downstairs. Further to this, Michelle's mother Carol had also heard Tommy (her 21-year-old son) calling out to her, but Tommy was nowhere in the home. Could this be an external entity 'mimicking' the families voices we asked ourselves? Voices were one thing, but mimicking the actual person was quite another, as the following piece of evidence would show.

SPI learned that Carol's mother had stayed the night on one occasion, and whilst she was making some tea in the morning, the mother 'saw' Carol come down stairs dressed in a flowered nightgown. The mother asked Carol if she would like a cup of tea, and, much to her surprise, Carol did not respond to the question, but turned around and went back upstairs. Later, Carol came downstairs in which her mother asked her, "Why did you not speak to me when I asked you if you wanted a cup of tea"? in which Carol replied, "but I'm just up". The mother then went on to describe Carol's nightgown, in which Carol replied, "but I don't own one like that". So, we ask ourselves, who was it that came downstairs? We've learned of the noises in the loft, but it was the growling noises which came from a cupboard in Carol's home which really frightened her.

On SPI's second visit to Carol's home, (which was prompted by an emotional telephone call from Carol to Malcolm), we were asked to urgently come up as all Hell was breaking loose. Upon entering Carol's living room, we were amazed to find that the living room was like an army barracks; it was full of sleeping bags and camp

beds for not only the Harrison family, but for the two families whose houses either side of Carol's, had also, as mentioned been subject to unnerving disturbances. They refused to spend the nights any longer in their own homes, and felt comfort in numbers, such as we now saw before our eyes. I'll never forget this sight, as there were hardly an inch of carpet which was not covered over by sleeping bags, (you couldn't move). Apparently, what had capped it all off, was when Carol's neighbors on either side of her, were grouped together in Carol's living room chatting and watching TV when suddenly they all heard together, the sound of 'thumping' coming from upstairs, probably from the loft they surmised. Feeling sick to the back teeth of these disturbances, they decided to face and challenge their fears. They all got out of their chairs, and angrily headed out into the hall area and looked up the Their fears were enhanced though as they all looked up onto the empty stairs, and clearly heard the thud of footsteps slowly advancing down the stairs towards them. And nobody, absolutely nobody, was there. Needless to say, they broke all records as they quickly took to their heels, jamming themselves in a door as they all tried to get out at the same time. That was the last straw Carol said.

After taking notes of all recent occurrences, we asked if we could spend the night in her home in which perhaps we, as investigators, might be able to observe or hear for ourselves these strange incidents. This request was accepted, and so I and my colleague Kevin Cole, began to set up our equipment. The three families then vacated the house and moved next door into the Power We decided to set up the equipment in Michelle's bedroom which we were told, was the coldest room in the house, even in the summer. But before Kevin and I sat down for our night time vigil, we decided to check the lofts of both Carol and Eleanor's So with some trepidation we slowly entered the loft area, (we investigators are no heroes you know) and with flashlights checked to see if there were perhaps any hidden devices which could contrive to make banging sounds, there were none. We looked for holes in the roof area in which birds might enter whereby making sounds which might be construed as something else by those in the home, there were no holes. We were satisfied in the dim light that it was just an ordinary loft which contained the usual bits and bobs of junk, satisfied, we 'quickly' got out of the loft and returned to do the same in the Power home. Again we were satisfied that it was just a normal loft with no hidden devices.

The reader might not be surprised to learn that SPI did not record or visually see anything that night, which was to me personally, a disappointment. In the morning, when the families rejoined us in the Harrison home, they were most disappointed to learn that nothing transpired during our 'ghost watch' as they so badly wanted us to confirm to them that we too had heard or seen something. A few days later, I was informed by Mrs. Harrison, that the family pet a collie dog named Lassie which had never ventured into Tommy's room since the family moved into the house, was heard barking in this room. Carol rushed upstairs and much to her

surprise, found that Lassie was in the room with the door firmly closed. Upon entering, she observed that the back of the bedroom door was all scratches due apparently, to the dog's frantic attempts to get out. There was also blood on the bedroom floor, (no carpet was laid at this time, it was just floorboards), and as far as Carol could see, this blood did not come from the dog's claws, or for that matter, anywhere else on the dog, including the rectum. She couldn't account for the blood, nor could her son Tommy when he was told about this.

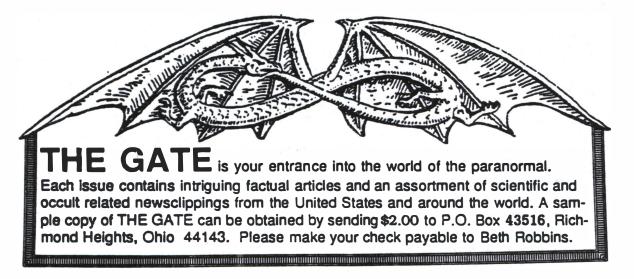
Another strange occurrence, was when Ian Power (9), Eleanor's son, related that for some weeks on and off, he had been woken up in the middle of the night by a transparent man and woman holding a baby, (the baby appeared solid). The woman snatched Ian's pillow from behind his head and placed it at the bottom of the bed. The woman continually asked young Ian his name, and also said, "don't be frightened of us". The woman then said, "we don't like the dog next door, (meaning Lassie, the pet of the Harrison family), we shut it in that room so it wouldn't bite us or the baby (?), we threw some meat on the floor for it". Ian had apparently not heard of the incident of Lassie being locked in Tommy's room, and if true, then this piece of testimony was certainly intriguing. But since when were ghosts frightened of being bitten I ask myself, now that's one for the books.

Further to this, was the quite amazing follow up testimony from Carol Harrison. For when I told her about young Ian and his experience of the strange man and woman holding a baby, she blurted out, "That would explain it. I've had strange dreams about a man and woman with a baby". Eleanor Power later explained to SPI that she has lost two babies in childbirth. The ghosts of the man and woman returned at a later date to young Ian in which the man said, "They have a vicious dog next door, but the dog likes the baby (?) this is not our baby, we are just looking after the baby until the owners (?) stopped being mad at it".

Ian said that the woman kept trying to insert a strange looking dummy tit into the mouth of the baby, whereby they then walked through to Ian's mothers room. Was this all fantasy on the part of young Ian Power, made up to achieve attention knowing that people were looking for ghosts? This has happened in the past, and we were treating his testimony with caution. SPI were still holding the option open that this case might be a hoax to achieve better housing accommodations. A possibility, but not at this time a reality. It was time to get further opinions on this case, and so I decided to take Carol, Eleanor and Michelle, along to the local Alloa Christian Spiritualist Church to meet up with committee members and generally discuss the case with them, (sparingly, with the briefest of details). This I did. Unfortunately as I was working night shift that particular night, I had to leave early. The following day I had a phone call from Carol in which she excitedly said to me, "Malcolm, you missed yourself last night, you should have stayed, oh how you should have stayed". She went on to say that during the talk with the committee of the church, footsteps could clearly be heard above them in a locked and disused room, pacing the floor. Concerned about this, one member of the committee went upstairs and looked through the glass panel of the door, his vision was met by an empty room. And although he didn't have a key to enter the room, this gentleman assured me at a later date that the room was most certainly empty in which there was no place for someone to hide.

The gentleman then went back downstairs and explained that he couldn't see anyone. Heavy footsteps were then heard 'again' coming from the same room which was then followed by the sound of (or what appeared to be like), stones falling between the walls. Carol laughed and said to those assembled, "This is nothing, this goes on all the time back at our house". I learned later from enquiries I made with the committee, that nothing like this had 'ever' happened in the Alloa Spiritualist Church before, this really had them all puzzled. It became obvious that the help of the Alloa Spiritualist Church was warranted, and it was agreed by both their committee and SPI that a date be set to visit the families. This date was met, and (in the next issue of Ghost Trackers Newsletter) we'll learn what transpired, for what did transpire, was both frightening and totally unexpected. Don't hold your breath, for there's a story and a half to follow!

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Submitted by: Malcolm Robinson, 41 The Braes, Tullibody, Clackmannanshire, FK10 2TT, Scotland.



Ghostly Odds And Ends

Every German castle harbors a legend. Even the lesser known castles boast a tale. For instance, Bewartstein hosts the ghost of "die Weissfrau" (White Lady) and Trifels once detained Richard the Lionhearted during the Third Crusade.

Pirmasens army post (Husterhohe Kaserne) is the scene of a haunted barracks room. The military police barracks building houses other post personnel on the second the third floors.

A room on the third floor also houses unearthly tenants. While stationed with the U.S. Army as a photo-journalist, three ghosts visited me.

On the first occasion a presence in my open wall locker awakened me from a deep sleep. Although I couldn't see anything, a profound sense of evil overwhelmed me. It paralyzed me completely. I warded it off by uttering the name of "Jesus".

The second ghost took the form of a greenish male lion. It awoke me from a sound sleep and disappeared when I once more used the name of "Jesus".

The third ghost I neither saw nor felt. I awakened from a deep sleep once more to hear heavy breathing. I froze. I thought an uninvited guest entered my room during the night. With my heart in my throat I slowly turned toward the source of the breathing.

No one rested there at the foot of the bed!

I remembered to speak the name of "Jesus" and my unseen visitor vanished.

When I moved to other rooms I experienced no supernatural manifestations. I didn't ask anyone else if they received spectral visitations. Three times was more than enough for me.

If you ever travel to Pirmasens, Germany, you may wish to check out the military police barracks on the Husterhohe Kaserne. If you're lucky you might meet up with ghostly inhabitants on the third floor across from the dayroom. Give them my regards!

Submitted by: Michele D. Fehr, 762 Easton Rd., Hellertown, PA. 18055

Chris, my friendly next door neighbor of 20 years, died suddenly and mysteriously.

She was a large, healthy, vital Pennsylvania Dutch woman of 50. I knew she was depressed - a devout Catholic, her daughter recently divorced and remarried. Chris, separated from her husband for two years, began divorce proceedings in 1993.

One night, in February 1993, I was awakened by a cold breath of air and saw a dark figure standing by my bed. I sat up and screamed. Later I found out she died that week while visiting her parents in Pennsylvania.

Submitted by: Barbara Perry, 771 S.E. 7th Ave., Pompano Beach, FL. 33060.

In the summer of 1975, my good friend Paulette Roeske and her two and half-year-old daughter Addie were asleep in their apartment on the 800 block of Judson Ave. in Evanston, Illinois. They slept soundly, no noises were heard in the night. When little Addie awakened, she went to her mother's bedroom and tried to tell her that the kitchen was dirty. Paulette keeps a spotless house, the kitchen was clean when she went to bed, so she could not understand how the kitchen could be dirty. She and Addie were the only ones who lived in her house. When Paulette entered the kitchen, she found six pots of herbs were removed from the window ledge and the sideboard and were emptied in the middle of the kitchen floor. inside kitchen window but not the outside storm window was Her Grandmother's antique salt and pepper shakers and shattered. teapot were in shards on the kitchen floor. Addie was much too small to have reached those things, and no noise had been made. Later that day, Paulette learned that her uncle, her Grandmother's son, had killed himself by shooting himself in the head.

In that same apartment, she could often hear someone scuffing down her long hall in carpet slippers. Sometimes the scratching of claws like those of a dog could also be heard. One evening a magazine salesperson knocked at the door. Paulette let him in. Her back was to the hall, and he was facing it. He started his sales pitch, and Paulette heard the scuffing begin. He looked up, and took off running after seeing what was in the hall coming towards him. Paulette saw nothing, she only heard it, but said if her daughter hadn't been home she would have followed him out the door.

One night when she had company, she went to the pantry to get a tray. There were no vibrations of any kind. A bowl slid off a level shelf, cutting Paulette's head.

Lights went on and off by themselves. Sometimes at night, Paulette would hear footsteps coming down the hall towards her bedroom, and she would wait terrified to see who it was, but she could never see what was making the sound.

Paulette is a teacher at College of Lake County, and is the author of two books of poetry and the winner of numerous awards. She used her experience to write a poem titled, "Dreaming of the Dead" from her book, "Breathing Under Water". She has given her permission for the GRS to publish this in it's newsletter.

Submitted by: Sara Fieberg, 909 Forest Ave., Evanston, IL. 60202.

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Opinion Polls

SGT. Joe Buonopane, Jr. from Camp LeJeune, North Carolina writes, "I would like to see a Pen Pal page or maybe a state by state listing of members. I would like to talk to others interested in ghosts near me."

(Editor: We've tried putting together a cross-country list of members interested in contacting and corresponding with others with similar interests but the response was very low. Completed forms only trickled in. However, I would be willing to give it another try).

Kenneth Smith of Ringgold, Texas comments, "In order to believe in the supernatural you need someone who doesn't treat the subject like a joke. I commend you on your seriousness. I would like to see the newsletter printed on glossy paper but it's ok like it is now. I read the editors note on page 20 of the February 1993 issue and I agree 100%".

Jack Elrick of Elizabeth, Illinois says, "I had expected to see an article or column in each issue about this societies field excursions or field investigations and since I am especially interested in electronic means of tracking these supernatural entities, what does this society use to track them?"

(Editor: We employ tape recorders, cameras, camcorders, magnetic compasses and are in the process of building magnetometers and spectrographs. Other kinds of equipment that could be used in the investigative process would be static detectors, variance detectors, etc. which are, at present, a bit too expensive for our budget. However, we plan to purchase these at a later date.)

Brian Manion of Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania writes, "It is not a bad publication but for <u>seriously</u> interested people, it is not informative enough and there aren't enough first-hand accounts. I am not criticizing the GRS, of course, I just think from what I've read in GTN so far, it is not professional enough for the serious students of the paranormal. The book reviews are well written, and the stories usually are too.

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Book Reviews

I Never Believed in Ghosts Until.... (100 Real-Life Encounters) Collected by The Editors of USA Weekend (Contemporary Books, Inc., 180 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL. 60601, 1992, 215 pages, softbound, \$9.95, ISBN: 0-8092-3840-3)

There is nothing quite like a personal experience to reduce skepticism about the supernatural. Once witness to an event that does not conform to everyday reality, a person is never the same and he or she will be inclined to regard the stories of others in a new light. I know this to be the case, as I saw something unusual in the sky over Calgary, Alberta back in the fall of 1974, and I have never been able to come up with a satisfactory explanation for it. There have been so many reports of ghosts over thousands of years, it is really surprising that we continue to The editors of USA Weekend pretend that no such thing exists. invited readers to submit ghost stories for a special Halloween They only needed six - they received well over five hundred. This new book has taken the best one hundred and grouped them in sections - "Tales For A Stormy Night", "Lost Souls", "Help From Beyond", "Where Spirits Dwell", "Love That Cannot Die", "Hauntings" and "The Shadow of Death".

If there is a flaw in the personal anecdotes related here, it is that the reader could use more information as to the background of the narrator, the date and location of the incident, etc. in some of the cases. Having said this, the book nevertheless gives a fascinating insight into just how varied experiences with ghosts can be - as different as the people who witness them. The people who have contributed these tales are male and female, young and old, single and married, black and white, blue collar and professional - a genuine mixture of humanity.

The style is similar to the two long-running features in Fate magazine - "True Mystic Experiences" and "My Proof of Survival". For example, Richard J. Zika contributes the story of "Phantom Hoofbeats" heard while on guard duty with the U.S. Army K-9 Corps 35 miles northeast of Calcutta, India in April 1944. A military tale that is much odder is the Vietnam shocker related by Michael Dennis. He gave a cigarette to a soldier on a beach at 3 a.m. one March night in 1969, later discovering the man belonged to a unit that was totally wiped out that day. Dennis never did catch a glimpse of the man's face as he always kept it turned away, and he says that perhaps the reason for this is the soldier no longer had one!

It is always interesting to hear of something new and unique in the annals of ghosts and hauntings. In "Pink Lady", Judy Tuschak says she spotted the apparition of a young blond woman holding a Kodak Instamatic Camera over her husband Tom while he was asleep and merrily snapping away! An incident of this nature really sets one to wondering - was this ghost a thought-form, a living person from the past or the future, or do they really have

film laboratories in the spirit world. Quite a mind boggler and not the sort of thing a witness would make up if he/she wanted to be believed.

Some of the stories are really very terrifying (Laura Giannone hears footsteps climbing the basement stairs while all alone in an apartment where there had once been a gruesome murder-suicide) while others are reassuring and even funny. Joy Payton not only had the ghost of a man dressed in the clothing of the '40's turn up in her house, but also had him leave proof of his appearance on a tape-recording she was making at the time. Some have the idea that ghosts only turn up when a person is half awake or not in a normal state of consciousness. Many of these cases have happened when the witness was wide awake in broad daylight and often in the company of others. Anecdotal evidence is important as it often tells us something about the nature of manifestations hidden in the details. example, Carol St. John of Sedona, Arizona relates an experience with a ghost that appeared to be all black eyes and writhing tentacles. However weird the sight it presented, the agency behind it may have been human, which leads to speculation that a deceased personality may be able to appear in whatever shape or form he or she wishes.

Some ghosts may be warps or distortions in time. In July, 1986 Clifford Porter and his wife had lunch in a restaurant then were astonished the following day when they drove by the building and found there was no restaurant in it and no one knew anything about the business!

It has been claimed there are basically six type of ghostly phenomena ranging from spirits of the dead to recordings of the past to poltergeists caused by pent-up energies of adolescents. The reader will find at least one example of all six in this book, including several that seem to straddle classifications. The sheer mass of testimony will help to convince you that there is a "Twilight Zone" quality to humanity that we usually ignore. Well worth looking into, this book has that "sense of Wonder" necessary for success.

Reviewed by: W. Ritchie Benedict, #12 - 401 Grier Ave., N.E., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2K 5S7.

Dark Zones edited by Sharon Jarvis (Warner Books, 1271 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY. 10020, 1992, \$4.99, 208 pages, paperback, ISBN: 0-446-36078-3)

The sister-companion book to **Dead Zones** also published by Warner Books and released last year around Halloween. This, like it's counterpart, is a collection of short, true stories written by several authors and then edited by Sharon Jarvis. One of my problems with the Jarvis books is it seems like she has actually written the stories, phrasing the sentences into the third person instead of the first person, while in actuality, the contributing authors did the bulk of the work.

Unfortunately there are a lot of old stories simply being

retold in this book which does lack the originality of previous books by Ms. Jarvis. Included in the repeats are: The Tower of London, The Lavendar Lady of Lemp Mansion, The Winchester Mystery House, The Wraiths of the Whaley House, The Apparition at Lourdes, Mystery Hill and Bigfoot Central. The above have been told and retold in one form or another in many other books of this kind. I consider them a sort of "filler" to lengthen the book.

While there are some interesting stories included in the book such as "The Phantom of the Organ Loft" written by Maurice Schwalm, "Lawton's Elusive Light" and "Foster's Vanishing Farmhouse", most of the book is a bit boring and filled with retold stories. Not one of Ms. Jarvis's better attempts.

Rated a 3 out of a scale of 1-10.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

The A-Z of British Ghosts by Peter Underwood (Chancellor Press, Michelin House, 81 Fulham Rd., London, England, SW3 6RB, 1992, 256 pages, hardcover, ISBN: 1-85152-194-1)

One of many, many books written about British ghosts and hauntings by the eminent Peter Underwood, President of the Ghost Club in England. This book tries to be the definitive A-Z book of hauntings in the United Kingdom. It falls way short of that though.

While there are lots of interesting stories, some I've never heard of before, some of the more famous cases of ghosts and hauntings seemed to have been deliberately left out for some reason. Perhaps they have been written about too much already??

Nicely illustrated with a good collection of pictures of some of the locations described in the book and with the added feature of nearby hotels/motels to stay in if you plan to visit these locations. Many of the locations, the author personally visited and spoke with the inhabitants; others he apparently researched without a visit probably through leads he received through the mail.

An illustrated guide to 236 haunted sites listed alphabetically by the city in which the site is located. Still a nice book to have if you plan to visit haunted sites throughout the British Isles. Rated a 5 in a 1-10 scale.

Actually this book should be called "Sinister Stories & Ghostly Tales of Old Edinburgh" since there was much more sinister stories than there were ghostly tales. I, nevertheless, found the book to be extremely interesting and even a bit gory at times

especially how some people were put to death during the 1300's. Let me quote a quick example from the story entitled "The King of Traitors".

"On the first day he was placed upon a cart, on which a kind of crane, in the form of a stork, was erected. The ropes of the crane tied round his ankles, he was drawn up by pulleys and then suddenly let fall to the ground, by which he suffered the most excruciating pain from the dislocation of his joints.

On the second day he was elevated upon a pillory and crowned with a red-hot iron which bore the inscription 'The King of Traitors'. He was then placed upon a hurdle, and drawn at a horse's tail through the High Street of Edinburgh.

On the third day he was stretched out on a platform and, while he was still alive, his intestines and heart were taken out and thrown onto a fire. He was then decapitated and his head was fixed upon a long pole and publicly displayed. Finally his body was quartered with three of the quarters being sent to Perth, Stirling and Aberdeen."

What a day to die, huh? Towards the end of the book, there are more stories associated with ghosts and hauntings. I'm sure that some of the people who died these most violent deaths are still hauntings the ancestors who put them to death!

A well-researched book with illustrations and drawings of some of the places mentioned in the stories. Many of the stories are less than one page with several fitting on only two pages. Still a most interesting if not somewhat bloody book. Rated a 6 in a 1-10 scale.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek
////////////////////////////
New England's Ghostly Haunts by Robert Ellis Cahill (ChandlerSmith Publishing House, Inc., PO Box 469, Peabody, MA. 01960-6969,
1983, 48 pages, \$3.95, softbound, ISBN: 0-916787-01-X)

A regional book written by a regional ghost hunter Robert Cahill which the editor of GTN appeared with in an article some years ago. A nice collection of short true stories such as: "Maine's Haunted Inn", "America's First Ghost", "Salem's Haunted Houses", "New Hampshire's Good Ghosts", "Ghosts At Sea", "Whitman's Haunted Bed", "Wareham's Musical Ghost", "Where To Go Ghost Hunting", "The Wild Green Mountain Boys" and "The Screeching Lady Of Marblehead".

There are two interesting ghost photographs reproduced in the book as well as other photographs showing the locations described. The one ghost photograph that impressed me the most shows a semitransparent figure of a person sitting in an old-fashioned couch. You can clearly see the ghosts' hands resting on it's knees!

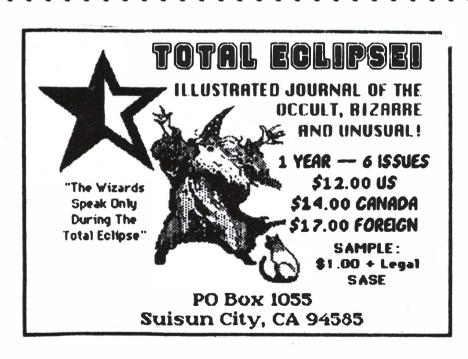
I never tire collecting, reading and reviewing regional books on ghosts and hauntings as it is always new and interesting research material and it gives the reader more locations to check out while traveling from state to state.

Rated a 7 in a 1-10 scale.

Another book in a series of books of New England oddities written by ghost hunter Robert Cahill. He wrote at least 16 of the rather short books (all numbering 48 pages) on various topics. Only two specifically dealt with the supernatural while others dealt with witches, monsters, mysterious men, strange sea sagas, shipwrecks and treasures, war wonders, visitors from outer space, viking and Indian wars, pirates and lost treasures, mountain madness and a few others.

This book not only has ghost stories but other strange and paranormal tales as well, such as: "Spooky Spirits of the Sea", "The Delicate Demon of Dover", "Visiting Our Local Vampire", "Boogeyman Of Beggerly", "Phantom Ships", "Haunted Islands Of Boston Bay", "Never Catch Old Sasquatch" and "Werewolves and Witches of Dogtown".

While with less pictures than the previously reviewed book, the ghost stories included within are worth reading even though the Dover Devil has been written about so often. Some of the books may still be in print. Rated a 5 in a 1-10 scale.



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You are sitting comfortably, with your eyes closed, listening to music. Sounds that find and connect with something inside of you and express your joy, your pain, your excitement, your strength, your vulnerability. You listen, and then, you recognize yourself. Such is a Sound Portrait by Howard Richman.

How a sound portrait captures your likeness.

Each original composition is like a painting of you, interpreting your inner and outer qualities based on Mr. Richman's intuitive impression of your past, present and potential states. He does not have to know you personally in order to create this amazing work. He simply tunes in to you, using his skills of perception, awareness and sensitivity, and improvises at the piano or synthesizer keybxard. He uses a technique based on a scientific principle called *entrainment* whereby the music mirrors and expresses the nuances of your personality.

Each piece is individually created on the spot just for you and recorded on audio cassette. The length of each composition will vary. Howard Richman will create a Sound Portrait for you personally, or you may order one as a dynamic and memorable gift for someone special in your life. He is also available to perform live. This will add a unique and personal touch to your next social occasion or business function.

Ways to experience a sound portrait.

By mail: For your own Sound Portrait by Howard Richman, or to give one as a gift, return the order sheet with payment of \$80.00 to Sound Feelings Records. This price includes first class or air mail shipping and any applicable sales tax. Your individual Sound Portrait will be created and sent to you in about three weeks.

Private sitting: You may make arrangements for a personal sitting and enjoy the experience of a live private performance. You will receive a copy of your Sound Portrait on audio cassette. Please call for an appointment. Numbers are listed below. \$150.00

Party performance: For private or corporate gatherings. Turn your next party into an entertaining and memorable event! Individuals will experience their original Sound Portrait created for them on the spot and will receive a cassette to keep. The number of Sound Portraits that can be created will vary depending on their individual length and the amount of time scheduled. A Sound Portrait of the entire group can also be included. A tuned piano will be necessary or portable equipment can be supplied for an extra charge. Call to reserve. Rates available on request.

Contact: Sound Feelings® Records, 24266 Walnut Street, Newhall, California 91321, USA. Telephone: 805-254-4938 or 818-344-3306.